Editing

by Susanne Gervay

Editing is:-

- making your meaning clear
- making sure your characters are fully developed and act in accordance with who they really are
- checking to see if you have lost characters on the way
- checking that the story lines really work and don't get hijacked by other story lines
- you can lose characters, plots, incidents … lots of things on the way
- NO cliches unless they are really, truly advancing the story and developing character
- Having the courage to lose "fabulous" descriptions when they don't advance the plot
- Being VERY critical
- cutting back
- extending storylines, maybe adding subplots
- experimenting with language to "suck" out the marrow

Then reworking your story

- tightening language, plot, character, theme
- getting opinions (you don't have to accept all criticism, just what sounds true)
- put your EGO outside and don't go into defense mode

Line editing is:-

- punctuation
- grammar
- spelling

NOT all editors are good. NOT all opinions are good BUT you need to hear them. YOU need to take what feels right. Then you need to edit and reedit because you want your work to convey your thoughts, imagination, view of the world.